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Council on Aging Minutes 04/22/2004

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Mara Klein Collins Chair
 Dorothy Nicholas Vice-Chair
 Shirley Chapski,
 Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging
 April 22, 2004
 MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:35 p.m. Members Present: Dorothy Nicholas, Harry McCabe, Lynne Larkin, Elizabeth McGaffigan, Ruth Palumbo and Shirley Chapski.

Absent: Mara Klein Collins, Mildred Hurd and Sheri Baron

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director

Quorum Identification/Call to Order:

Dorothy Nicholas, Vice-Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Shirley Chapski kept the minutes. A quorum of 6 was present.

Mara Klein Collins, Chair, due to personal reasons, may be unable to attend the COA board meetings for a while. Harry moved to waive her attendance at the board meetings until further notice at Mara's discretion; Shirley seconded; all in favor. A letter will be sent to Mara advising her of the board's action.

Minutes of the March 18, 2004 Meeting: Harry moved to receive the minutes of the March 18, 2004 meeting; Shirley seconded; all in favor. Harry moved to approve the minutes for purposes of discussion, Shirley seconded, all in favor.

The following correction was made: p.1, two lines from the bottom, the name "Care" should read "Carey." Shirley moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Ruth seconded, all in favor.

REPORTS:

Executive Director's Report

- Student Government Day: Will take place on Thursday, April 29. Dottie will participate with John in the program.
- CDBG Income Limits: In accordance with HUD guidelines, the income limits for CDBG-supported programs have been increased to \$43,850 for a single person living alone and \$50,100 for a married couple living together.
- Goal Planning Sheet: Included for the the members' information.
- MGA Newsletter: The UMass Boston Gerontology Institute and Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs have launched a "Boomer Ready Project." They, along with other agencies, are working to develop a manual that will depict methods to achieve a "boomer ready" environment. John referred to a paragraph in the newsletter concerning overburdened COAs. He said they are mandated to include programs that are unfunded, such as the SHINE Program.
- Medicare Drug Discount Cards: John distributed draft copies of (a) the June issue of the Arlington Senior Notes newsletter featuring an article entitled, Medicare Drug Discount Cards Arrive Soon., (b) a copy of a letter addressed to seniors from U.S. Congressman, John F. Tierney, which sets out his concerns with the Discount Drug Cards, and (c) information on Drug Discount Card Scams. A discussion followed on concerns with the program and how best to address them. It was decided that Ruth and Harry along with John meet with Minuteman Senior Services SHINE Program Director, Cindy Phillips, to learn more about the program.
- Consumer Risk Among the Elderly in Arlington, MA: The survey is a result of a UMass Extension and EOEA research project to assess consumer fraud issues that affect elders in Mass. The results of the survey as they apply to Arlington elders was sent to John from Cynthia Sawyer Director of Planning and Programs, Minuteman Senior Services.

- Agawan Senior Center Memorial Program: Information on a Memorial Gift program for the board's information.
- Winchester Seniors Assoc.: Their brochure gives an idea of the lectures they are presenting.

ASA Representative to the COA: No report.

Sevoyan Bequest Committee: No report but Harry is open to any questions from the board.

COA Representative/Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services: Harry had mailed copies to the board of an article from The Older American, entitled Getting Ready for the Baby Boomers, by Jennifer Davis Carey, Sec. of the Mass. EOE.

COA Representative/Liaison to Arl. Seniors Association: No report.

TRIAD Committee: Dottie and Lt. Serson of the Arlington Police Dept. attended a SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) committee meeting in Gloucester on April 8th. The committee, which has at least 20 members, reports to their COA and meets monthly. Dottie and Lt. Serson gained a lot of useful information and were told that the program takes about a year to set up. Dottie and Lt. Serson plan one more field trip and then they will be ready to put something together. To start with, the program will be an agreement between the COA and local law enforcement working together to prevent crime and to educate and protect seniors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Job Description: COA Member: The following corrections were made to the March 25, 2004 draft job description: "Special Functions and Responsibilities," Item 1: change the word "Attended" to "Attend;" Item 6: line 3, after the words, "Department of Human Services)," delete "the comma (,)" ; item 8: after the words "...staff member" insert ", other than the Executive Director, ". Harry moved to approve the document "Job Description: Council on Aging Member," as corrected, Elizabeth seconded, all in favor. The corrected and approved job description will be made a part of these minutes (Attachment A).
- Joint ASA/COA Fundraising Committee: Harry reported that the Arlington Seniors Association has engaged a professional fundraiser, and has approved a \$75 membership in a fund raising organization. Harry has provided the ASA with fund raising information from many years ago. He would like the board to keep in mind a joint fundraiser between the ASA and COA.
- Pay As You Throw Committee: Elizabeth reported that she attended the meeting but it will be a while before recommendations are made. Subcommittees are researching many issues, including costs, how to charge for trash pick-up-by a flat fee or per bag, reduction of fees for seniors, illegal dumping, etc.
- Arlington Health & Human Services Charitable Corporation: Patsy Kraemer, Director of Human Services, has submitted a proposal from the Arlington Health & Human Services Charitable Corporation to the committee overseeing the Symmes Hospital Fund, requesting \$150,000 mainly for youth-oriented programs. It was suggested that John remind Patsy that the Council would like to receive a copy of the By-laws and list of the members, as well as a copy of the Articles of Incorporation. Dottie would like a member from the COA to be on the board of the charitable organization
- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED): Harry has been in conversation with Dr. Carey who offered to attend a Council meeting and tell us about the AED. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

- Sevoyan Dental Care Subsidy Program Update: John reported on the following changes to the dental subsidy program: the dentist who formerly performed the initial dental evaluations at the COA is no longer providing this service. Consequently, the COA's Geriatric Nurse Specialist will do initial evaluations on a quarterly basis without charge and make professional written recommendations and the client's participating dentist will review the work needed commensurate with cost; and (b) the HUD income guidelines have changed. Harry moved to approve the revised Sevoyan Dental Care Subsidy Program for program 2004, as printed, Lynne seconded, all in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

- Charles Sevoyan Charitable Trust: As of March 31, the ending ledger balance is \$293,525.24.
- COA Financial Statement: John reviewed the accounts, ending March 2004. Under the Sevoyan Dental Program, Harry pointed out an error: the available funds in this account should be \$13912, not \$17397. John will contact the Comptroller's office and resolve this inaccuracy. Under the Sanborn Grant, the COA has received a check from the Sanborn Foundation for an additional \$16000.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Harry moved to adjourn, Lynne seconded; all in favor.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Shirley Chapski,
Secretary

Date of next Regular Meeting, May 27, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.